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The death of expertise pdf

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The digital age has led to an explosion of information, making it easier than ever before for people to access knowledge. However, this has also fueled a sense of intellectual egalitarianism, where individuals believe they are on equal footing with experts despite lacking formal training. This phenomenon is exemplified by the rise of self-taught therapy providers who challenge traditional scientific expertise. The increasing democratization of information dissemination has created an army of misinformed and disgruntled citizens who dismiss intellectual achievement as elitist. The paperback edition of Tom Nichols' "The Death of Expertise" warns about the alarming trend of rejecting experts, which threatens to destabilize modern democracy. The book provides a new foreword that covers the exacerbation of these trends following Donald Trump's election. The rise of alternative therapies and the increasing distrust of traditional epistemic authorities have led to a shift in how consumers approach health decisions. Proponents of science-based expertise argue that this approach is essential for accurately diagnosing and treating symptoms. However, critics claim that this approach can be misleading and dismiss those who advocate for alternative therapies as experts. As technology and education continue to improve, more people are exposed to information, but this also fuels narcissistic intellectual egalitarianism, where individuals believe they have equal expertise to doctors and diplomats. The author, Tom Nichols, argues that the rejection of experts is a result of various factors, including the internet's openness, the customer satisfaction model in higher education, and the transformation of the news industry into an entertainment machine. This has led to a situation where ordinary citizens are often ill-informed and angry, denouncing intellectual achievement as undemocratic elitism. The author warns that this trend threatens the stability and survival of modern democracy in the Information Age.